

DR. ENRIQUE PENALOSA

Enrique Penalosa is an accomplished leader, who has achieved positive results in diverse activities in which he has been involved. He is also an influential thinker on urban challenges particularly those related to sustainability, mobility, equity, public space and well being.

Penalosa has lectured internationally in numerous environmental, urban design and policy and university forums and has advised governments in Asia, Africa, Australia, Latin America and the US. His vision and proposals have significantly influenced policies in numerous cities throughout the world. He currently is Senior International Advisor to the ITDP (Institute for Transportation and Development Policy) of New York and the Hewlett Foundation and a member of the experts' team of the Urban Age Project of the London School of Economics. He works as consultant on Urban Vision, Strategy and Policy.

As Mayor of Bogota, the 7 million inhabitants' capital of Colombia, Penalosa profoundly transformed the city, turning it from one with neither bearing, nor self esteem or hope into an international example for improvements in quality of life, mobility and equity in developing world cities. During his 1998-2001 tenure –the Colombian Constitution does not allow for immediate reelection, Mr. Penalosa implemented an environmentally and socially sustainable model, which prioritizes public transport, public pedestrian spaces and children's happiness.

He created TransMilenio, probably the world's best bus-based transit system; a network of bicycle paths; slum improvement projects; a land bank to provide low income housing with quality urbanism; greenways and pedestrian promenades through low income neighborhoods; radical improvements to the city center; daily car use restrictions during peak hours and an annual Car Free Day; formidable libraries and parks; high quality public schools managed through an innovative scheme by the best private schools in the country.

Penalosa's ideas and proposals have been featured in many international publications and he has also published books and articles in periodicals and books. He emphasizes that a humane city is the best instrument for competitiveness in the new century, when attracting highly qualified and creative individuals will be especially crucial for economic development.

Penalosa holds a BA in Economics and History from Duke University, a Master's Degree in Government from the IAP in Paris and a DESS in Public Administration from the University of Paris II. He also was Visiting Scholar at New York University for 3 years.

He has been awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship, National Simon Bolivar Prize for Journalism; Prize of the Society of Economists of Bogotá and Cundinamarca; selected in 1986 as one of the Best Young Colombian Leaders by the Cámara Junior and was awarded a full Scholarship to Duke University. The City of Bogotá was awarded the National Colombian Architecture Prize, thanks to Nepalese's park development program.

He has been featured in The New York Times, Herald Tribune, PBS Television, BBC and many others and has advised cities throughout the world such as Cape Town, Denver, Berkeley, Seattle, Melbourne, and Sao Paulo. He has traveled with the World Bank and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy on missions to Mexico City, Panama City, Lima, New Delhi, Jakarta, Guangzhou and Hong Kong in China, and Yogyakarta and Surabaya in Indonesia. The Energy Foundation invited him to speak at a nationwide Mayors Forum in Shanghai.

Penalosa has published numerous articles in newspapers and magazines as well as two books: Capitalism: The Best Option and Democracy and Capitalism: Challenges of the Coming Century. A book of a long interview with him by Angel Becassino was also published, under the title Penalosa and a City 2,600 meters closer to the stars.

Publications:

Books Cerros de Bogotá, Villegas Editores: May 2003.

Capitalism: The Best Option and Democracy

Capitalism: Challenges of the Coming Century

The Role of Transport in Urban Development Policy, Sustainable Urban Transport Project – ASIA